

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the last paragraph, line 32, beginning at page 3 and extending onto page 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The firing element 28 has an elongated generally cylindrical body member 46 having a forward end 48 and a rearward end 50. The body member 46 is made of a hard plastic, such as Fortiflex K50-10-136 High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) or the like and has a center bore 52 extending there through between the forward end 48 and the rearward end 50. As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the body member 46 has a rearward portion 54 of greater diameter, a forward portion 56 of reduced diameter, and a shoulder portion 58 on the body member 46 between the forward ~~56~~ 54 and the rearward ~~54~~ 56 portions dwelling in a plane perpendicular to a center elongated axis of the body member 46. Mounted in the rearward end 50 is a percussion element 44. The rearward end 60 of the percussion element 44 protrudes slightly rearwardly from the bore 52 and is adapted ultimately to be engaged by the protrusion 43 of the bolt head 40. The forward end 48 of the bore 52 receives the nipple 24 such that the forward end 62 of the percussion element 44 is in alignment with the nipple 24. Thus, to load the in-line muzzleloading rifle, a firing element 28 with a percussion element 44 mounted in the rearward end 50 of the bore 52, is inserted through the opening 26 in the receiver 14, and is placed on the nipple 24.